

Testimony of Eileen M. Healy
Housing Committee 3/1/22
S.B. 168, An Act Establishing a Right to Housing

My name is Eileen Healy and I am a registered voter in Woodbury, CT. I am writing in support for SB 168, An Act Establishing a Right to Housing.

However, people with disabilities must be included in the analysis on how to implement a right to housing. As a person with a disability that **does** have stable housing, I work with far too many others that struggle to obtain and maintain housing. For some examples, there is:

- A lack of affordable housing for all people
- A lack of affordable and **accessible** housing
- A lack of affordable and accessible housing in a variety of locations, towns and cities across CT
- A lack of different types of housing options including congregate, supported and scattered site
- A lack of funds available to modify new and existing housing to permit aging-in-place

If someone is fortunate enough to have financial assistance for housing, e.g., a Section 8 voucher, good luck finding an apartment that doesn't exceed the Fair Market Rent. Both rentals and home purchases have become even more unaffordable due to COVID-19.

Disability intersects with gender, race, domestic violence, veterans and immigrants, among other groups of people. While the intent of SB 168 may have been to include a disability factor, not stating it is a glaring omission and could easily result in excluding the disability perspective. I strongly suggest that the language of the bill be modified to include experts on disability and include people with disabilities themselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eileen M. Healy

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